

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments made to the claims and the remarks made herein.

Claims 1-18 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended.

The drawings, provided in the prior Response, have been objected to as being informal. Applicant thanks the examiner for his observation and submits herewith Figures 2 and 3, properly annotated as "replacement sheet" to replace Figures 2 and 3 currently of record.

Having provided replacement sheets for Figures 2 and 3, applicant respectfully requests that the figures be entered and the objection withdrawn.

Claims 1-14 and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Okanous (US Patent no. 5,862,345).

The Office Action states that Okanous anticipates the present invention, in part, because 1.) the claim element "each secondary station having a distinguishing identifier" is taught by the "logical identifier" recited by Okanous, 2.) the claim element "assigning each secondary station to at least one of a plurality of categories" is taught by the "logical identifiers" recited by Okanaous, and 3.) the claim element "transmitting, by the primary station beacon signals containing indications of those categories" is taught by the beacon multicasting facility operating at periodic intervals to send beacon packets to all mobile hosts in a subnetwork indicating the identification of the subnetwork.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with, and explicitly traverses, the reason for rejecting the claims. However, applicant has amended the claims to more clearly state the invention in that the secondary stations have unique identifiers and that they are assigned to categories wherein the secondary stations in the category have at least one common characteristic.

Okanous discloses a system for location multicasting and database management for mobile sessions where each mobile host is assigned a subnetwork-independent logical identifier (L-Id) and acquires a subnetwork-dependent geographical identifier (G-Id) from an agent-existing subnetwork. The mobile host sends the G-Id to the home

subnetwork of the mobile host for location registration. When establishing a session, a data packet is sent from the mobile host to the network along with a G-Id corresponding to a L-Id of the data packet stored in the database. At the home subnetwork, a data packet destined to a mobile host of a subnetwork is encapsulated with the G-Id of the mobile host and routed to the subnetwork. Hence, Okanous allows a mobile host to migrate between subnetworks and retain information regarding the mobile host, and to acquire information regarding the particular subnetwork to which the mobile host is attached in order to enable communications essentially independent of the location of the mobile host.

However, Okanous fails to disclose the claim element "assigning each secondary station to at least one of a plurality of categories, as is recited in the claims. In rejecting claim 1, the Office Action has equated the identification of the secondary stations (logical identifier) and the category (logical identifier). Hence, Okanous fails to disclose the assigning of stations to categories as the secondary stations and categories are considered the same entity.

Okanous, also fails to disclose the claim element "transmitting, by the primary station, beacon signals containing indications of those categories for which the primary station has data to be transferred," because if the secondary stations and the categories have the same identifier then the transmitting step would require that the transmission would be to each of the secondary stations rather than "categories for which . . . data has to be transferred."

Okanous, further, fails to disclose the claim element "wherein each station in a category has at least one common characteristic" as Okanous teaches that the mobile hosts (i.e., secondary stations) may enter and leave subnetworks, and Okanous fails to disclose that the subnetworks have at least one common characteristic.

It is well recognized that to constitute a rejection pursuant to 35 USC §102, i.e., anticipation, all material elements recited in a claim must be found in one unit of prior art. For the reason shown, Okanous cannot be said to anticipate the present invention, because Okanous fails to disclose each and every element recited in claim 1.

Having shown that Okanous fails to disclose each and every element recited in the claim, applicant submits that the reason for the rejection of the claim has been overcome and the rejection can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

With regard to claim 16, this claim recites subject matter similar to that recited in amended claim 1 and has been rejected for the same reason used in rejecting claim 1. Thus, the applicant's remarks made in response to the rejection of claim 1 are also applicable in response to the rejection of the above referred to claims.

In view of the remarks made with regard to the rejection of claim 1, which are repeated, as if in full herein, in response to the rejection of claim 16, applicant submits that the reason for rejecting this claim has been overcome and the rejection can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

With regard to claims 2-13 and 17-18, these claims ultimately depend from the independent claims 1 and 16, which include subject matter not disclosed in, and, hence, allowable over, the cited reference. Accordingly, claims 2-13 and 17-18 are also allowable by virtue of their dependence from an allowable base claim. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Claims 15 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okanous in view of Rotzol (USP no. 5,790,946).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with, and explicitly traverses, the reason for rejecting the claims. A claimed invention is *prima facie* obvious when three basic criteria are met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the reference themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the teachings therein. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. And, third, the prior art reference or combined references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

With regard to claims 15, this claim recites subject matter similar to that recited in claim 1 and has been amended in a manner similar to the amendment made to claim 1. In

view of the amendments made to claim 15, applicant submits that this claim discloses subject matter not disclosed by Okanous.

Rotzoll discloses a communication system that includes a first communication device for receiving data and a wake up signal. The first communication device includes an active mode and a sleep mode for reducing power consumption. The system includes a switch for switching the first device to and from sleep mode in response to receiving the wake up signal.

However, Rotzell is silent with regard to assigning secondary stations to categories as recited in the present invention. Rotzell is further silent in that the secondary station, in determining that data is available for transmission, sends the identification of the secondary station to the transmitter (primary station).

Neither Okanous nor Rotzoll, individually or in combination, teach or suggest all the elements recited in the above referred-to claim. From the teachings of Okanous and Rotzoll, even if combined, one would not be motivated to develop a system having all the features recited in the independent claim 15.

Having shown that the combination of Okanous and Rotzoll fails to teach or suggest all the elements claimed, applicant submits that the reason for the rejection has been overcome and the rejection can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim.

Although the last Office Action was made final, this amendment should be entered. No matter has been added to the claims that would require comparison with the prior art or any further review. Accordingly, pursuant to MPEP 714.13, applicant's amendments should only require a cursory review by the examiner. The amendment therefore should be entered without requiring a showing under 37 CFR 1.116(b).

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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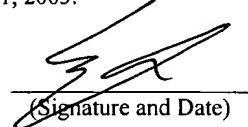
Date: March 11, 2005

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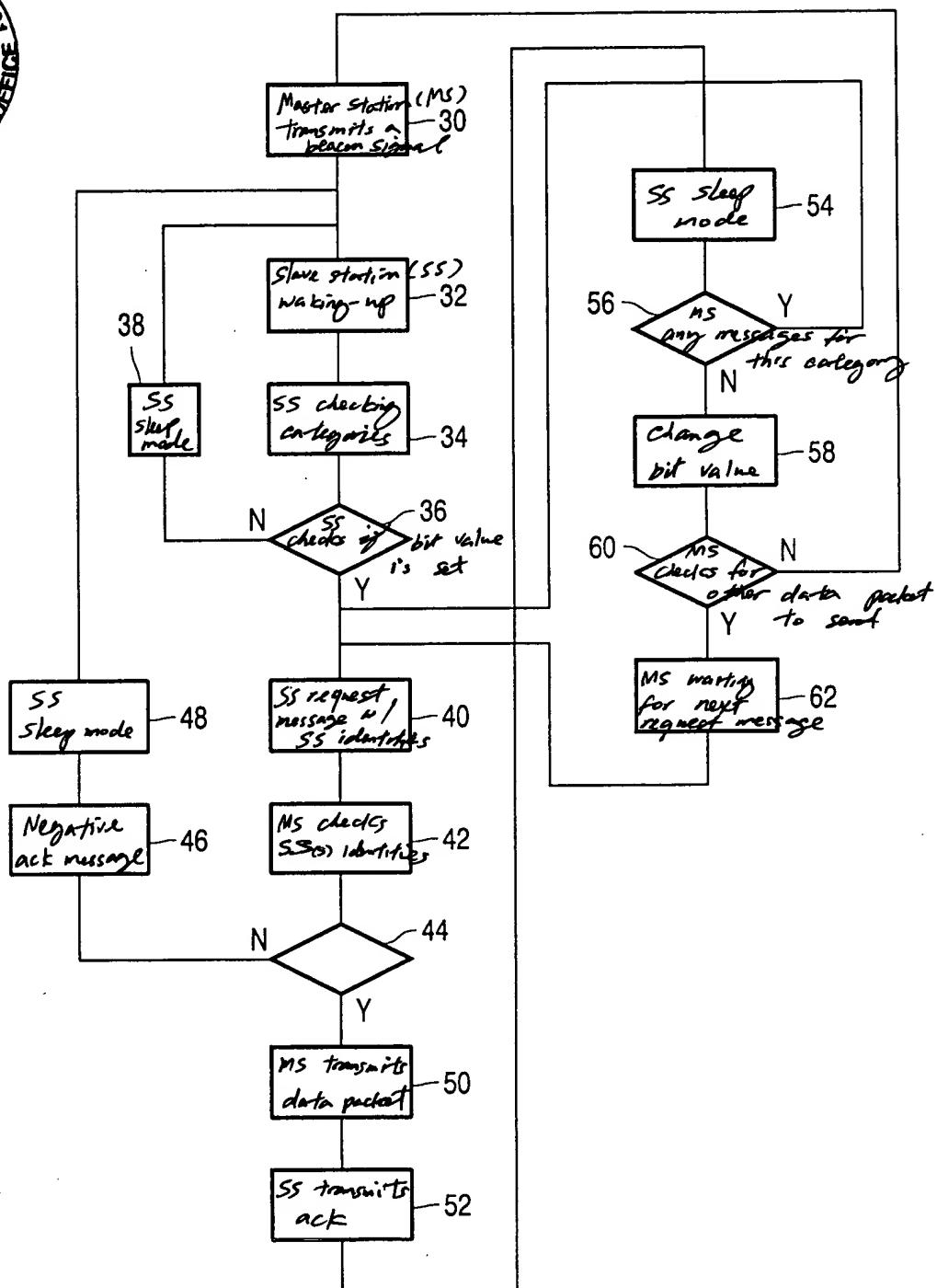


FIG. 3

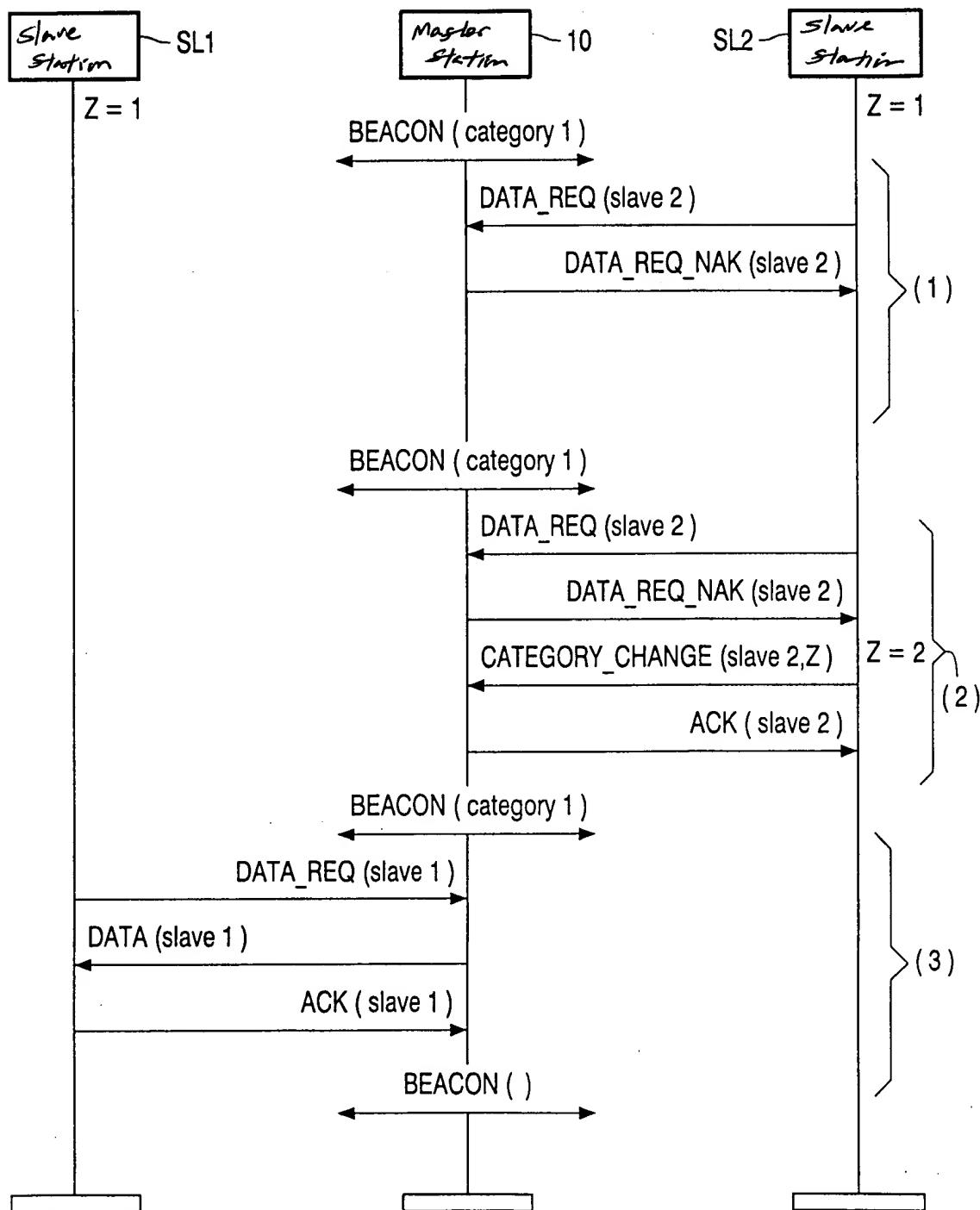
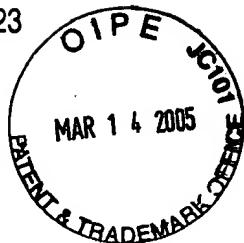


FIG. 4